

Academic Program Assessment Report

Assessment is a term commonly used to encompass the process of gathering and using evidence to guide improvements.

SACSCOC requires that an institution "identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of seeking improvement based on analysis of the results".

Be sure to SAVE your progress as you work!

Academic Program

Visual Art, M.F.A.

Submission Due Date

Fall 2025: October 1, 2025

Assessment Coordinator Name

Asma Nazim-Starnes

Enter Assessment Coordinator Email

fnazimstarnes@lander.edu

Program Goal

Goal

Goal 1

Program Goals are broad and overarching statements about the skills, knowledge, and dispositions students are expected to gain by the end of their course of study (big picture). They support the Institution's Mission/Goals.

Program Goal

Students demonstrate skills to communicate critical thinking in visual art

Pillar of Success Supported

Robust Student Experience

Outcomes

Outcome 1

Outcomes are specific, **measurable** statements that reflect the broader goals.

Academic Programs are required to develop **Student Learning Outcomes**, which describe knowledge, skills, and values that students are expected to gain as a result of their educational experiences.

Academic Programs may also develop **Operational Outcomes**, which describe the level of performance of an operational aspect of a program or office (ex. graduation rates, retention, employment data).

Most goals have at least two outcomes measured.

What type of Outcome would you like to add?

Student Learning Outcome

Enter Outcome

30 Hour Review. Upon completion of the second year, first semester, each candidate will demonstrate professionalism, creative inquiry, and studio skill development in their developing body of work to graduate faculty.

Timeframe for this Outcome

2025-2026

Performance Target for "Met"

MFA candidates score 3.5 points or more on the MFA review rubric indicating professionalism, creative inquiry, and studio skill development in their developing body of work

Performance Target for "Partially Met"

MFA candidates score 2.5 points on the MFA review rubric indicating professionalism, creative inquiry, and studio skill development in their developing body of work

Performance Target for "Not Met"

MFA candidates score 2 points or less on the MFA review rubric indicating professionalism, creative inquiry, and studio skill development in their developing body of work

Assessment Measure Used

Presentation to graduate studio faculty assessed by rubric.

Frequency of Assessment

At the completion of 30 graduate hours

Data Collected for this Timeframe (Results)

100%
N=2

Score (Met=3, Partially Met=2, Not Met=1)

3

Comments/Narrative

In 2025-2026, the cohort of MFA candidates passed the 30-hour review. Each candidate presented a body of work and an oral presentation to graduate faculty that indicated critical inquiry and and studio development.

Resources Needed to Meet/Sustain Results

Explanation of How Resources Will Be Used

Outcome 2

Outcomes are specific, **measurable** statements that reflect the broader goals.

Academic Programs are required to develop **Student Learning Outcomes**, which describe knowledge, skills, and values that students are expected to gain as a result of their educational experiences.

Academic Programs may also develop **Operational Outcomes**, which describe the level of performance of an operational aspect of a program or office (ex. graduation rates, retention, employment data).

Most goals have at least two outcomes measured.

What type of Outcome would you like to add?

Student Learning Outcome

Enter Outcome

Final Thesis Project. During the last semester of the degree program, each MFA Candidate will present a written statement and an exhibition of graduate art work.

Timeframe for this Outcome

Academic Year 2025-2026

Performance Target for "Met"

MFA candidates score 3.5 points or more on the MFA review rubric indicating professionalism, creative inquiry, and studio skill development in their final exhibition of work supported by a written statement

Performance Target for "Partially Met"

MFA candidates score 2.5 points on the MFA review rubric indicating professionalism, creative inquiry, and studio skill development in their final exhibition of work supported by a written statement

Performance Target for "Not Met"

MFA candidates score 2 points or less on the MFA review rubric indicating professionalism, creative inquiry, and studio skill development in their final exhibition of work supported by a written statement

Assessment Measure Used

Presentation of a written thesis and exhibition of body of work reviewed by graduate studio faculty.

Frequency of Assessment

At the completion of the MFA program

Data Collected for this Timeframe (Results)

Student scores increased 6.47 points, so this means that the goal was "met" for this instrument (5 points is the target).

Score (Met=3, Partially Met=2, Not Met=1)

3

Comments/Narrative

MFA students presented a thesis and exhibition of work to be reviewed by the MFA committee

Resources Needed to Meet/Sustain Results

Explanation of How Resources Will Be Used

Outcome 3

Outcomes are specific, **measurable** statements that reflect the broader goals.

Academic Programs are required to develop **Student Learning Outcomes**, which describe knowledge, skills, and values that students are expected to gain as a result of their educational experiences.

Academic Programs may also develop **Operational Outcomes**, which describe the level of performance of an operational aspect of a program or office (ex. graduation rates, retention, employment data).

Most goals have at least two outcomes measured.

What type of Outcome would you like to add?

Student Learning Outcome

Enter Outcome

Oral Presentation. Each MFA candidate will present a verbal statement of their body of graduate artwork to graduate faculty while their thesis exhibition is on display.

Timeframe for this Outcome

Academic Year 2025-2026

Performance Target for "Met"

MFA candidates score 3.5 points or more on the MFA review rubric indicating professionalism, creative inquiry, and studio skill development in their final oral defense

Performance Target for "Partially Met"

MFA candidates score 2.5 points or more on the MFA review rubric indicating professionalism, creative inquiry, and studio skill development in their final oral defense

Performance Target for "Not Met"

MFA candidates score 2 points or less on the MFA review rubric indicating professionalism, creative inquiry, and studio skill development in their final oral defense

Assessment Measure Used

Presentation of an oral defense of their written thesis and exhibition of art work.

Frequency of Assessment

Annually

Data Collected for this Timeframe (Results)

No data

Score (Met=3, Partially Met=2, Not Met=1)

Comments/Narrative

Students presented an oral defense of their thesis and portfolio of work

Resources Needed to Meet/Sustain Results

Explanation of How Resources Will Be Used

Goal Summary

Goal Summary/Comments

Current MFA students are going through the program.

Changes Made/Proposed Related to Goal

None

Upload Rubrics/Other Files

Goal 2

Program Goals are broad and overarching statements about the skills, knowledge, and dispositions students are expected to gain by the end of their course of study (big picture). They support the Institution's Mission/Goals.

Program Goal

To comply with Program Productivity standards as defined by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Pillar of Success Supported

High-Demand, Market-Driven Programs

Outcomes

Outcome 1

Outcomes are specific, **measurable** statements that reflect the broader goals.

Academic Programs are required to develop **Student Learning Outcomes**, which describe knowledge, skills, and values that students are expected to gain as a result of their educational experiences.

Academic Programs may also develop **Operational Outcomes**, which describe the level of performance of an operational aspect of a program or office (ex. graduation rates, retention, employment data).

Most goals have at least two outcomes measured.

What type of Outcome would you like to add?

Operational Outcome

Enter Outcome

Major Enrollment

Timeframe for this Outcome

Academic Year 2025-2026

Performance Target for "Met"

Using a five-year rolling average, the number of students enrolled in the major (a) for Baccalaureate programs is greater than or equal to 12.5, (b) for Master's/First Professional is greater than or equal to 6.

Performance Target for "Partially Met"

Not Applicable

Performance Target for "Not Met"

Using a five-year rolling average, the number of students enrolled in the major (a) for Baccalaureate programs is less than 12.5 (b) for Master's/First Professional is less than 6.

Assessment Measure Used

Enrollment and Graduation data extracted from Banner

Frequency of Assessment

Annually

Data Collected for this Timeframe (Results)

3.5

Score (Met=3, Partially Met=2, Not Met=1)

2

Comments/Narrative

Increased recruitment will increase the size of the cohort. We currently have 5 MFA students, one of whom is continuing the program and the rest have begun their graduate studies in the Fall of 2024. Two of these students have been conditionally accepted into the program. I do not have an update as to

their 'conditional' status, as I am no longer chair of the art department as of Fall 2025.

Resources Needed to Meet/Sustain Results

Explanation of How Resources Will Be Used

Outcome 2

Outcomes are specific, **measurable** statements that reflect the broader goals.

Academic Programs are required to develop **Student Learning Outcomes**, which describe knowledge, skills, and values that students are expected to gain as a result of their educational experiences.

Academic Programs may also develop **Operational Outcomes**, which describe the level of performance of an operational aspect of a program or office (ex. graduation rates, retention, employment data).

Most goals have at least two outcomes measured.

What type of Outcome would you like to add?

Operational Outcome

Enter Outcome

Completions (Degrees Awarded)

Timeframe for this Outcome

Academic Year 2025-2026

Performance Target for "Met"

Using a five-year rolling average, the number of degrees awarded (a) for Baccalaureate programs is greater than or equal to 8, (b) for Master's/First Professional is greater than or equal to 3.

Performance Target for "Partially Met"

Not Applicable

Performance Target for "Not Met"

Using a five-year rolling average, the number of degrees awarded (a) for Baccalaureate programs is less than 8 (b) for Master's/First Professional is less than 3.

Assessment Measure Used

Enrollment and Graduation data extracted from Banner

Frequency of Assessment

Annually

Data Collected for this Timeframe (Results)

No data

Score (Met=3, Partially Met=2, Not Met=1)

2

Comments/Narrative

This is a relatively new program.

Resources Needed to Meet/Sustain Results

Explanation of How Resources Will Be Used

Goal Summary

Goal Summary/Comments

The MFA program maintains its size with 5 students currently enrolled in graduate level classes.

Changes Made/Proposed Related to Goal

None

Upload Rubrics/Other Files

Dean's Email Address

mjameson@lander.edu

Approved by Dean?

Yes

Signature of Dean

Misty L. Jameson

Comments from Dean's Review

While there is mostly adequate data for this report, it is missing the information for Goal One, Outcome Three. Next year's report, with a new assessment coordinator, will need to be more thorough, and more reflective, in the reporting of data, particularly in the outcome and goal narratives.

While enrollment continues to be an issue for the MFA program, as of fall 2025, there are seven total MFA students (four for the MFA, 3D studio and three for the MFA 2D studio), which would put this program as meeting the enrollment goal of at least six. I mention this because, in the comments/narrative for Goal Two, Outcome One (major enrollment), Prof. Nazim-Starnes was unsure of the number because she is no longer chair and does not have access to this data. This is good news for this program; I hope that Art faculty are able to retain these students and find ways to recruit to this program, potentially by using NACE competencies or data from NASAD.

Thank you for reviewing and approving this report. The approval and a copy of the report will be emailed to you and the Assessment Coordinator.